

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

"Heads or Tails"

(Pilot Script)

**REVISED
FINAL**

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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

"Heads or Tails"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

NEAR SPACE

A very fast-moving POV whips through wispy white clouds as we HEAR WHINING ROAR of powerful engines. POV breaks out to see small planet far below. *

① ROBOT PILOT (O.S.)
(monotone; filtered)
E.T.A., Planet Mobius thirty seconds.

As we close, POV enters roiling black clouds of smoke, momentarily blocking our view of Mobius.

② ROBOT PILOT (O.S.)
E.T.A., Big City... twenty seconds. *

Smoke clears and we're directly above a big city of futuristic buildings. Dark, foreboding and abandoned. Near empty streets. Factory smokestacks spew thick clouds of soot into an already murky sky. Not an inviting place.

③ ROBOT PILOT (O.S.)
Ten seconds.

NEW ANGLE

Revealing POV'S source as a black, evil-looking, futuristic HOVERCRAFT that dips down, then zips along above empty streets, its TURBINE WHINE ECHOING through the concrete canyon. *

CUT TO:

INT. ROBOTNIK HOVERCRAFT - MOVING *

BIG CLOSE UP on pair of electronic eyes glowing an evil red. WIDEN TO SEE that the eyes belong to faceless ROBOT PILOT (SWAT-BOT), wearing a dark uniform designed somewhere between a Nazi Storm Trooper and LAPD motor cop.

Beside him is DR. ROBOTNIK. Bald, mustachioed, one glowing red eye, mechanical left arm and dark tunic. A half-smile on his face. *

④ ROBOT PILOT (O.S.)
Five seconds, Dr. Robotnik.

Perched on Robotnik's gloved left hand is CLUCK, faithful, falcon-like CHICKEN ROBOT. His glowing eyes are yellow, his beak full of razor-sharp teeth and his attitude just this side of a herniated cobra.

(5) ROBOT PILOT (O.S.)
...Four, three, two,...

Robotnik affectionately strokes Cluck's metal head as he gazes out at the dead, polluted city. He speaks in a voice like Hannibal the Cannibal.

(6) ROBOTNIK
We're home, Cluck. I do miss the beauty of this place when I'm gone.

(7) CLUCK
(a HISSING-SQUAWK that sounds part snake)

CUT TO:

EXT. HEADQUARTERS HOVERPAD - DAY

CLOSE ON eager-to-please face of a MAN we'll call SNIVELY. He's also in uniform, but not the black of the SWAT-BOTS. Something dark. A purple, maybe. He's short, wears small, round glasses and has a very big alien nose and strange eyes. Hovercraft motor dies O.S., but Snively's hair still sticks straight out in all directions. He licks palm of his hand and tries to smooth it down, but it springs back out in jagged points.

~~Snively snaps to attention and cross-wrist salutes as we WIDEN to see Robotnik step from hovercraft. Building is a cold, gray mixture of high-tech chrome and steel. The Robotnik flag flutters from nearby pole.~~

(8) SNIVELY
(toady)
Good morning, Dr. Robotnik. Egg-citing trip?

(9) ROBOTNIK
Shut up, Snively.

(10) CLUCK
(HISSES "Shut-up, Snively!")

(11) SNIVELY
(half-bowing)
A thousand omelettes, sir.

ROBOTNIK

heads for high-tech rooftop entrance, guarded by two SWAT-BOTS. Snively follows, glaring at Cluck, who is now perched on his master's shoulder. Cluck glares and HISSES back, his glinting teeth SNAPPING. Snively bristles, whips out a futuristic remote device, then aims and CLICKS it at one of...

CLUCK'S

robotic eyeballs, causing it to pop out and dangle on the end of a coiled spring.

(12) CLUCK
(SQUAWKS bloody murder)

Snively smiles, then quickly CLICKS remote device again and Cluck's eyeball SNAPS back into the socket a split-second before Robotnik turns, raises his sunglasses, and his left eye telescopes out like a long zoom lens and examines Cluck closely, noting that the robot chicken's head is vibrating.

(13) ROBOTNIK
(COOS)
What is it, Cluck? Do you need
another head adjustment?

(14) CLUCK
(more SQUAWKING)

Robotnik grabs the top of Cluck's head and turns it counter-clockwise. We hear TWO CLICKS. Cluck SQUAWKS happily.

*

(OMIT)
CUT TO:

**

EXT. BLDG. ENTRANCE - DAY

A round, metal door telescopes open as Robotnik approaches. He returns cross-fist salutes from SWAT-BOT GUARDS and enters as...

SNIVELY

also salutes the SWAT-BOT Guards, then rams nose-first into fast-closing doors and...

CLUCK

HISSES happily as he disappears inside with Robotnik.

ZIP PAN TO:

INT. ROBOTNIK'S WAR ROOM - DAY

CLOSE ON Robotnik as his wrap-around mirrored sunglasses fade to clear, revealing bug-like eyes staring intently at something O.S.

WIDER- THE ROOM

Plushly appointed. Low ceiling. Techno state-of-the-art. Wall to wall electronics. Robotnik reclines in throne-like chrome chair staring up at bank of ceiling-mounted TV monitors. Each monitor shows live views of areas around Mobius. City, desert, mountain, swamp, forest, etc. Snively stands obediently to one side.

(16)

ROBOTNIK

Any hint of that troublesome Hedgehog?

(17)

SNIVELY

Not egg-actly, Dr. Robotnik.

(18)

ROBOTNIK

What do you mean, not exactly?
Either there is or there isn't.
Which is it?

(19)

SNIVELY

(flustered)

Well, I, uh,... that is...

(20)

ROBOTNIK

Let me make something very clear,
~~Snively...if you weren't married to~~
my aunt's niece, you'd be working as
a paper weight. Do you understand?

(21)

SNIVELY

(nods)

Egg-solutely, sir.

(22)

CLUCK

(wheezy SNICKER)

CLOSE ON RED LIGHT

beside one of the monitor screens as it starts to FLASH. Screen shows TAILS, the little fox, WHISTLING happily as he picks wild flowers in a meadow and...

(23)

SNIVELY

Egg-mergency light, Doctor Robotnik.
Monitor ten.

Dome flips up and Robotnik's eyes snap to TV screen. So do Cluck's.

(24)

ROBOTNIK

Isn't that one of those fetid little
Freedom Fighters?

(25)

SNIVELY

Egg-firmative, sir. His name is
Tails.

Robotnik sits up, eyes narrowing.

(26)

ROBOTNIK

Take him. Perhaps his cries will
flush out bigger game.

CUT TO:

EXT. MEADOW - GREAT FOREST - DAY

CLOSE ON Tails as he SNIFFS the bouquet. His nose twitches once,
twice, then he uncorks a...

(27)

TAILS

(powerful SNEEZE)

...that defoliates the bouquet and sends him flying backwards at
high-speed, cutting a swath through the blanket of wild flowers.
He SLAMS into a tree and rebounds into a quick series of front
somersaults, finally coming to a stop standing on his head.

UPSIDE DOWN P.O.V. - BUZZ-BOMBER

coming straight at him in a power-dive, his infra-red eyes
glowing as...

TAILS

GASPS, then scrambles to his feet and runs for his life as...

BUZZ-BOMBER

drops down to low-level and ROARS right INTO CAMERA.

CUT TO:

EXT. FAR EDGE OF MEADOW - DAY

BOOMER sits on tree stump, whips a whole fish from his backpack,
tilts his head back and pops it in his mouth like a peanut. He
BURPS, wilting a nearby bush with his breath.

(28)

SONIC (O.S.)

You ready, Boom?

(29)

BOOMER

Ready.

WIDER ANGLE

As SONIC, holding his guitar, springs out from behind a tree like he was shot from a gun, lands in front of Boomer in dramatic rocker pose, hitting DOWN BEAT as he lands. He holds this pose for LONG BEAT, letting the CHORD fade away, then leaps straight into the air, spins fast three times, lands in the splits and bounces back up as he wails a HARD ROCK INTRO, then starts to SING...very fast.

(30)

SONIC

(sings fast)

Hey, hey, Sal, don't you call me a fool,

'Cause baby, you know ...

That I am way past cool.

Way past cool, way past cool.

As Sonic SINGS, he dances his Hedgehog brains out, spinning, hopping and moving at a speed only Sonic can as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. OTHER SIDE OF MEADOW - DAY

IN A SHOT reminiscent of the CROP-DUSTER SCENE in "North By Northwest," Tails runs INTO CAMERA unleashing a loud...

(31)

TAILS

(screams)

SON-N-NI-IC!!!

...as the low-flying Buzz-Bomber closes in from behind and...

CUT TO:

EXT. FAR EDGE OF MEADOW - DAY

As Sonic continues to SING, he drowns out Tails' CRY for help.

(32)

SONIC

(continues SINGING)

As he SINGS final lyric, he leaps in the air and hits the ground on his knees, sliding right up to Boomer, head back in dramatic pose, his guitar RINGING OUT the final note. He looks at unmoved Boomer.

(33) SONIC

Way past cool, huh? How do ya like the entrance? Huh? You know, the way I come flyin' in, hit the Old Axel Rose pose right on the downbeat and...

Boomer slowly shakes his head.

(34) BOOMER

Sally won't like it. Too hard rock. Gotta be softer.

(35) SONIC

Softer? Whaddaya mean softer? I hate softer. Softer is for pillows! Or ice cream! Music has gotta move. It's gotta be pedal to the metal. It's gotta...

Boomer slowly shakes his head, then pops another fish.

(36) BOOMER
(mouth full)

Ballad.

(37) SONIC

Ballad! Smallad! Nah-uh, man! No way! Ballads make me wanna hurl...
(makes face like he's gonna be sick, then stops)
...chunkage contained.

He suddenly hops high in the air and hits a HEAVY METAL CHORD as he lands.

(38) SONIC

I don't do... ballads, even for Sally. They're slow. Dull. Boring.

Boomer slowly shakes his head as he pops another fish, then BURPS and we can actually see the wavy lines shoot from his mouth that illustrate his bad breath. Sonic sees the breath coming and whips up his guitar for protection. Breath hits guitar and SNAPS all the strings, then:

(39) TAILS (O.S.)
SON-NN-NIC-CCC!!! HELL-LP!

(40) SONIC

Thought you said Tails was pickin' flowers?

(41) BOOMER

He was... two minutes ago.

SONIC

tosses Boomer his guitar, leaps up and hovers as his red-sneakered feet churn the air in a wind-milled blur, then hit the ground with a CHIRP and...

...VA-RO-O-O-O-OOM-M!!!

...he rockets O.S. in a neck-snapping foot-wheelie, leaving twin trails of SMOKING SKID MARKS that burst into flames as he takes-off, his jet-blast back-wash blowing Boomer right OUT OF SHOT.

CUT TO:

INT. ROBOTNIK'S WAR ROOM - DAY

CLOSE ON Robotnik and Cluck (on Robotnik's shoulder) watching Buzz-Bomber -- flying only three feet off the ground -- CLOSE IN on Tails via the TV monitor.

(42) ROBOTNIK
The fetid little beast is ours,
Cluck. Yessss!

(43) CLUCK
(HISSY "YESSS!")

MONITOR SCREEN

As Buzz-Bomber closes on Tails with his rear-end curled, laser-stinger in firing position, Sonic ROARS into view from behind the big robot and...

ROBOTNIK

slowly gets to his feet, his normal eye narrowing to a slit as he stares at the monitor.

(44) ROBOTNIK
It worked! There's the Hedgehog!

He punches button on console.

(45) ROBOTNIK
Bomber-One... The Hedgehog is
directly behind you. Forget the
small one.
(gets enthusiastic)
Get Sonic!! Get him!!! Get him!!!!

CUT TO:

EXT. MEADOW - DAY

But Robotnik's orders come too late as Sonic ROARS INTO SHOT, snatches Tails out of harm's way just as Buzz-Bomber's laser beam fires, hitting a rock, ricocheting back off and nailing Buzz, causing the...

BIG ROBOT

to lose control. He hits the ground chin-first, bounces once on his chest, then settles into a belly-scraping SKID that sends up a rooster tail of sparks and dirt as he digs a furrow in the ground that grows deeper and deeper until Buzz grinds to a stop, only his bent butt-stinger visible above ground level.

SONIC

on the move, drops the little fox into his backpack.

(46) SONIC
(yells)

Hang tight, Tails! We're juicin'
warp seven!

And as he VA-ROOOOMS away, leaving the half-buried Buzz-Bomber eating his dust, we...

CUT TO:

INT. ROBOTNIK'S WAR ROOM - DAY

Robotnik now stands inches from the monitor, glaring at the monitor screen with those Hannibal Lecter eyes.

ON TV MONITOR

Sonic SKIDS to stop, looks right at the FLOATING CAMERA, as do Tails (from within the backpack) and Boomer, who holds onto Sonic's waist from behind. Sonic points at CAMERA.

(47) SONIC

Little news bulletin, Robotnik,...
read the ol' lips,...

CUT TO:

EXT. MEADOW - DAY

A floating CAMERA ORB hovers above Sonic, Tails and Boomer.

(48) SONIC (CONTD)

You are history, done, through, outta
here, 'cause the Freedom Fighters are
up and on the job!

CUT TO:

INT. ROBOTNIK WAR ROOM - DAY

Robotnik glares at the monitor.

(49) BOOMER
(slow nod)
We're there.

(50) TAILS
(waves)
Hi, Mom.

EXT. MEADOW - DAY

Sonic turns, leans back and is ready to VA-ROOOM off, when Robotnik's voice BOOMS out of a loudspeaker mounted atop the floating camera orb.

(51) ROBOTNIK (O.S.)
Wait!

Sonic stops, looks around.

EXT. MEADOW - DAY

(52) ROBOTNIK (CONTD)
Mark my words, Hedgehog,...before
this day is done, you and the Power
Rings will be...
(makes fist with iron hand)
...right in the palm of my hand.

As he makes a fist we hear the HORRIBLE GRINDING of metal.

EXT. MEADOW - DAY

(53) SONIC
Should we hold our breath, guys?

(54) BOOMER & TAILS
No way! Nah-uh!

(55) SONIC
Guess that says it all, huh,
Robotnik?
(beat)
Let's juice!

Sonic ROARS off as...

INT. WAR ROOM - ROBOTNIK'S

eye again narrows to that evil slit and we...

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT FOREST - DAY

This is an alien forest and it should not duplicate any on Earth, but needs to have enough similarities so the audience can identify and enough differences to make it visually interesting. Right now it's quiet. Normal (alien) forest sounds. A DEEP RUMBLE shakes the ground, closely followed by a scenery-shaking SONIC-BOOM. Then Sonic blasts into view, ROARING toward CAMERA in a blur, Tails peering out from within the Hedgehog's backpack, Boomer SKIDDING along behind him, hands around his waist.

SCREEEECHH!

SONIC

jams to a stop and looks around at his two friends, both of whom have their eyes tightly closed, faces scrunched up in a grimace, their fur sticking straight back as if still moving.

(56)

SONIC

Wake-up call, guys,...the Hedgehog has landed.

Their eyes blink open. They look around. Tails smiles. Boomer pops a fish.

(57)

TAILS

Whoo-o-aa! How fast did we go, Sonic?

(58)

SONIC

We were scootin' n' rootin', Li'l Bro'.

(59)

TAILS

(nods; big smile)

Yeah, scootin' n' rootin'.

Sonic reaches up, grabs a vine hanging from a branch, gives a yank and...

THE BOTTOM

of huge, upended tree made up of many loops and curves (unlike any tree on Earth) angles down into deep, heavily forested canyon (we can only see the tree tops that rise from the camouflaged canyon floor), swings open like trap door, revealing a smooth, hollowed-out slide inside.

TAILS

hops up on the tree trunk, looking down the slide with a big grin. He jumps up and down.

(60) TAILS

Can I ride with you, Sonic?

Sonic bounds in next to Tails and picks him up.

(61) SONIC

You wanna ride with me?

(62) TAILS

Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!

Sonic shakes his head with somber expression and sets Tails down.

(63) SONIC

Sorry, Bud. No can do.

Tails' face drops like a safe, then Sonic scoops him up and grins.

(64) SONIC

Just kidding! Let's juice!

Sonic jumps up, hits the slide on his buns, and takes off, racing around a banking curve and out of sight, Tails on his lap, SCREAMING with delight.

CUT TO:

INT. THE SLIDE - SAME

CAMERA at bottom of a long, steep drop. We hear Tails' SCREAM approaching, then Sonic and Tails burst into view way flying over the top, then jam straight down INTO CAMERA, Tails' SCREAMING MOUTH BLACKING OUT THE SCENE, then...

SONIC

comes shooting OUT OF CAMERA and hits a series of moguls, flying into the air as they go over each bump. Tails raises his hands as if on a roller coaster. So does Sonic. They both SCREAM.

SERIES OF QUICK CUTS

As Sonic and Tails: 1.) SKID around a sharp curve, Sonic sliding on one hip. 2.) CAMERA FOLLOWS Sonic and Tails as they WHOOSH through a hair-raising 360 degree loop-the-loop. 3.) Sonic and Tails sizzle down a series of tight, corkscrewing turns. All this moving like a shot.

EXT. BOTTOM OF CANYON - SAME

From this angle, we can see the bottom of the slide-tree, which empties out directly over a big haystack. Hear Tails YELLING as they approach. Beat, then Sonic and Tails come ripping out and sail feet-first into the haystack, where they disappear in an EXPLOSION of straw.

THE HAYSTACK

As Sonic and Tails pop up.

(65) BOOMER (O.S.)
(yell; reverb)
Incoming!

Sonic and Tails look around as...

BOOMER

comes hurtling out of the tree slide opening, arms wrapped around bent knees, headed for the haystack. As he goes:

(66) BOOMER
Cannonball!!!

He hits the haystack before Tails and Sonic can get out of the way, and they all disappear in an EXPLOSION of straw -- like a medicine ball dropping in a cereal bowl. When the falling straw clears SCENE we see...

BOOMER

sitting in a deep body indentation where haystack used to be, a flattened Sonic and Tails beneath him.

(67) BOOMER
Sorry 'bout that, guys.

(68) SONIC AND TAILS
(weak)
You're sorry??

WIPE TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE MEADOW - SAME

PAN ACROSS small meadow bordering Knothole Village, where six solar windmills and several wheeled catapults are parked. MOVE IN ON one of...

THE CATAPULTS

BUNNIE RABBOT stands on the platform, metal-muscles CREAKING and bulging as she lifts the broken throwing arm overhead and tosses it aside.

(69) ANTOINE (O.S.)
Very good, Bunnie.

She looks around at...

ANTOINE D'COLETTE

as he points to new throwing arm leaning against the railing.

(70) ANTOINE (CONT)
Now up we go with the new one here.

Bunnie glares at Antoine.

(71) BUNNIE
(sarcastic)
Why, Antoine, I do declare, what would I ever do without all your help?

(72) ANTOINE
(thinks she's serious)
It's nothing, really.

(73) BUNNIE
Do tell.
(looks up)
Sally, you'all figured out why these silly throwin' arms keep breakin'?

**

PAN TO...

PRINCESS SALLY

who wears a small computer-headset.

(74) SALLY
We're working on it, Bunnie.

Beside Sally is Boomer, who has pieced together a crude, miniaturized catapult from sticks and is flipping various sized pebbles. He continues this as Sally speaks into her computer.

(75) SALLY
Nicole,...

(76) COMPUTER VOICE
Ready, Sally,...

(77) SALLY
Search data bank for entry.
Variable: catapult.

(78) COMPUTER VOICE
One entry qualifies. Catapult:
ancient military weapon used to hurl
stones.

(79) SALLY
Correct. Allow for an extra 1000
pound capacity and begin creation.

(80) COMPUTER VOICE
Working...

A holographic image of the catapult takes shape in mid-air before her.

ANTOINE leans INTO SHOT, peers closely at the hologram, then looks up at Sally with puppy dog eyes.

(81) ANTOINE
You're really beautiful when you
work, Princess Sally.

Sally shoots Antoine a look.

(82) SALLY
Antoine, don't call me Princess. Out
here, the only royalty is Mother
Nature.

Antoine nods, kisses her hand.

(83) ANTOINE
To me,...you'll always be royalty.

Sally rolls her eyes as her holographic catapult and Boomer's model are now simultaneously flinging rocks side by side. A beat as they study the movements, then:

(84) SALLY AND BOOMER
The cotter pins!

They turn to the cotter pin on the catapult's throwing arm. Boomer pulls it part way out.

(85) BOOMER
They're made of wood.

(86)

SALLY
So when we increase our payload
weight they break.

(87)

BOOMER
They've gotta be metal.

A JET WHINE

approaches and they all look around to see...

SONIC

racing toward them at high-speed, kicking up a Road Runner dust cloud behind him.

(88)

SALLY (O.S.)
It's Sonic!

ANTOINE

scrunches up his face like he just bit into a lemon.

(89)

ANTOINE
Thought I detected a foul odor.

SONIC

races up onto the platform, blows past Antoine and sends him into a wild spin before SKIDDING to a stop in front of Sally and Boomer. Antoine comes out of his spin looking sickly green.

(90)

SONIC
Ant, Ant, Ant, you look a little
green...
(pinches his cheek)
Actually, you look better green. You
should keep it.

He turns to see...

SALLY

glaring at him, arms folded across her chest.

(91)

SONIC
(SNIFFS the air and looks
around)
Do I smell something burning?
(Sally glares)
Okay, Sal, what's wrong?

(92)

SALLY

What's not wrong? Sonic, these catapults are all a mess. I thought you were going to help.

(93)

SONIC

I was. I can. I am.

(94)

SALLY

Thank you.

(95)

SONIC

But not now.

(96)

SALLY

Why? So you can go to the Big City for a chili dog?

(97)

SONIC

Mois, go to the Big City for a delicious, mouth-watering, tongue-torquing, chili dog? I was thinkin' about it.

(beat)

Yes.

(98)

SALLY

When are you going to get serious? You know how dangerous the City is.

Sonic hits a very fast series of speed poses. During this:

(99)

SONIC

I was built for speed and born for danger. Speed is my middle name, danger is my game.

Sally stomps her foot.

(100)

SALLY

This is not a game, Sonic! We need metal cotter pins for the catapults.

(101)

SONIC

Cotter pins? What's a cotter pin?

(she points to a cotter pin)

I knew that. Cotter pins.

(beat)

Maybe I'll bump into some cotter pins when I'm buyin' a chili dog. C'mon, Boom,...we gotta do the Ring-thing.

Boomer puts his arms around Sonic's waist like a motorcycle passenger, then Sonic jumps up and JETS OFF in a SCREECH of smoking sneakers. Sally SIGHS as she looks after him.

WIPE TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE 'POWER RING SPRING' - DAY

CLOSE ON SONIC'S reflection peering down into pool of clear, turquoise water. WIDEN to see small pool enclosed by a rocky grotto. Sonic, Tails and Boomer stand on a flat rock five feet above the pool.

(102)

TAILS

Is it time yet?

(103)

BOOMER

Any second now.

(104)

TAILS

Why ya goin' to the Big City?

(105)

SONIC

To get some chili dogs and scope for my Uncle Chuck and my old hound dog, Muttski.

(106)

TAILS

(tugs on Sonic's arm)

Yum, chili dogs! Can I go too?

(107)

SONIC

No way, Big Guy.

(108)

TAILS

Yeah, way!

THE WATER

begins to bubble and we hear a LOW RUMBLE from deep within the pool. Then a pinpoint of light begins moving swiftly to the surface as the RUMBLE gets louder.

(109)

TAILS

Here it comes!

The light grows rapidly until the blue of the water turns a brilliant gold.

Boomer lifts Tails up out over the pond a beat before a golden POWER RING pops up out of the water and...

TAILS

grabs it in mid-air, squinting and turning his head to avoid the dazzling light coming off of it.

(110)

TAILS

I got it! I got it!

Boomer takes the Ring and shoves it in Sonic's backpack. Tails squints into the pack, the Ring still emanating the golden light.

(111)

TAILS

I forget how come you're the only guy who can use the Power Rings.

(112)

SONIC

My Uncle Chuck made 'em for me so I could help bring down Robotnik and we can all go home again.

(113)

TAILS

I hate creepy old Robotnik.

Camera closes on a determined Sonic as he says...

(114)

SONIC

Yeah,...don't we all.

WIPE TO:

EXT. ELEVATOR AREA - DUSK

A lovely shot of the dying sun streaming through the trees, we hear that JET-WHINE and TILT DOWN to see...

SONIC

churning toward us, dust billowing out behind him. He SKIDS to stop NEAR CAMERA, glances at his watch, then looks around, TAPPING his foot (which moves in a blur) impatiently, making a LOUD THUMPING sound.

(115)

SONIC

(to himself)

C'mon, Boomer. Time to juice!

BOOMER

lumbers into view with napkin tied around his neck, popping a big fish in his mouth. He BURPS and Sonic ducks the breath-ray, which defoliates a large bush behind him.

(116)

SONIC

Did you get it?

Boomer holds up a catapult cotter pin.

(117)

BOOMER

Yep. Get six of these, but they have to be metal.

(118)

SONIC

No Prob.

They very quickly tap fists, tap index fingers and hook pinkies.

(119)

BOOMER

Be cool, Sonic.

(120)

SONIC

Way past.

He goes into his fast-blast take-off and rockets straight up the side of the tree in a cloud of dust and skid marks as we...

WIPE TO:

EXT. GREAT FOREST TRAIL - DUSK

Empty FRAME. Hear FLUTTERING SOUND, then Tails comes sailing into view, flying six inches off the ground. He hits a fallen tree, flips over and goes into series of somersaults, bounces off and rolls backwards to a stop.

(121)

TAILS

(GRUNTS, then MUTTERS under his breath as he gets up)

Tails scrunches up his little face and his twin tails wind up tight like two rubberbands. Then he jumps up and the tails unwind, scooting him through the air and O.S. Hold as we hear a loud THUMP, then Tails comes SKIDDING back INTO SHOT on his butt. WIDEN to see a small vibrating tree in front of him.

(122)

TAILS

Stupid tree!

HEAR approaching RUMBLE. Leaves blow. Then a SONIC-BOOM ROCKS THE FRAME, a BEAT before Sonic SKIDS INTO SHOT.

(123)

SONIC

Tails! What're you doin'?

Tails puffs out his chest, starts to walk off, nose in the air.

(124)

TAILS

Goin' to the Big City.

Sonic zips around in front of Tails, who bumps into the Hedgehog's stomach. Sonic picks him up by the nape of the neck (as you would a cat) and looks him in the eye.

(125)

SONIC

I'm excited for you, Li'l Bro', but that is nowhere near cool.

(126) TAILS
How come?

(127) SONIC
Because the Big City is crawlin' with
SWAT-BOTS! They're all over the
place, just waiting for you to come
to town so they can...
(he grabs Tails)
...ROBOTIZE YOU!

(128) TAILS
(scared)
T-They are?

(129) SONIC
Sure they are.

Tails turns, heads back the way he came. Now walking TOWARD
CAMERA. As he goes:

(130) TAILS
(overly dramatic)
Okay, but it's a looo-ong way back to
Knothole, so if Buzz-Bomber gets real
mad and gobbles me up, I bet you're
gonna feel just terrible.

Sonic thinks that over, then ZIPS around in front of Tails, who
again bumps into the Hedgehog's stomach.

(131) SONIC
Okay, you can go, but listen up. You
stay in my backpack and guard the
Power Ring, got it?

(132) TAILS
(happily)
Got it!

They tap fists, tap index fingers and hook 'pinkies'.

Sonic pops Tails into his backpack (only his head is visible).

(133) TAILS
Is it gonna be dark when we get to
the Big City?

(134)

SONIC

That's the plan.

(BEAT)

Hold on...we're gonna juice!

He does his fast-blast take-off whiplashing their upper bodies
and rockets O.S.

*

WIDER

As Sonic ROARS out of the Great Forest and heads across the Great
Desert, the Big City skyline looming dark and foreboding in the
distance.

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT II

FADE IN

EXT. LOW ANGLE ON BIG CITY STREET - NIGHT

CAMERA below street level so we get DRAMATIC PERSPECTIVE of the eerie buildings and empty street. Devoid of color, the buildings rise like evil sentinels into polluted, low-hanging clouds. An acid rain falls, adding to this Gotham-like mood.

A trio of headlights prowl into view and move toward CAMERA. One light sweeps back and forth, probing the darkness. As it closes, we see that it's a SWAT-BOT PATROL VEHICLE. Black, low, insect-like in its futuristic design.

INT. PATROL VEHICLE - MOVING - NIGHT

Single SWAT-BOT at the controls. Infra-red eyes glow out from featureless face as he peers through rain-spattered window. His radio headset CRACKLES.

(135) RADIO VOICE
Patrol Nine. Status.

(136) SWAT-BOT #1
Z-Sector normal.

EXT. PATROL VEHICLE - NIGHT

Trashcans RATTLE from nearby alley and the patrol vehicle stops abruptly. Roof light swings around, fills the alley with white light, flushing a scrawny CAT out of a trashcan.

Light retracts and patrol vehicle moves on, disappearing into the gloomy night. CAMERA MOVES INTO alley as...

SONIC

rises from a trashcan, the lid still on his head. Tails pops up out of the backpack and looks around with wide eyes. Following a WHISPER:

(137) SONIC
Place is crawling with Swat-Bots,
Tails, so we gotta chill. Serious.

*

Sonic hops out of trashcan, moves to alley entrance and peers out at the empty street. Tails rubs his nose and SNIFFS.

(138) TAILS
How come the Big City smells so
yucky?

(139) SONIC
'Cause Robotnik's factories hurl tons
of crud into the sky every day.

Tails' nose twitches, then he suddenly...

(140) TAILS
(SNEEZES)

It's a powerful SNEEZE for such a little guy and it blows him
backwards out of the pack and into a stack of...

TRASHCANS

which he SMASHES into and knocks over making a BIG RACKET and
almost instantly SIRENS are heard approaching as...

SWAT-BOT PATROL VEHICLES

careen into view from all directions, red lights flashing, SIRENS
SCREAMING, spotlights sweeping the darkness and...

SONIC

pulls the dazed Tails from the tangle of trashcans.

(141) SONIC
Gesundheit.

He pops him in the backpack, then busts straight up the inside of
a large drainpipe an instant before...

THREE SWAT-BOT VEHICLES

SKID UP at alley entrance, their lights whiting out THE SCENE.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNK HEAPS - NIGHT

CLOSE ON exhaust pipe protruding from rear of junked car. Hear
familiar JET-LIKE WHINE approach, then Sonic comes ripping out in
a cloud of exhaust soot. He SKIDS to mid-air stop (leaving twin,
mid-air SKID MARKS that BURST INTO FLAME) as soot cloud dissolves
and he drops lightly to the ground.

(142) SONIC
(Looking back)
Past cool, Tails.

Tails pops up, also soot-smudged. He looks around, then up.

TAIL'S POV

Open on car who's exhaust pipe they just flew out of, then TILT up to see a mountain of other junked cars that actually rise straight up, then disappear into the low cloud cover.

(143) TAILS (O.S.)
Is this the chili dog place?

WIDE - HIGH ANGLE

To see the vastness of the place. It's a mountain range of junk. Some of the mountains are high enough to draw snow. Dark except for scattered security lights. A scary, ominous feel about it. No sign of any SWAT-BOTS now, but SIRENS HOWL in the distance.

(144) SONIC
Nope. It's called the junk heaps.

(145) TAILS
No chili dogs?

As SIRENS grow louder, Sonic pokes through some junk, picks out some cotter pins and sticks them in backpack.

(146) SONIC
(through above)
No chili dogs. Cotter pins.

He looks up as half-a-dozen SWAT-BOT cars race past in the street, SIRENS SCREAMING. But Sonic seems more interested in something else. Something across the street.

SONIC'S POV

A long line of HUMANS turned ROBOTS shuffle silently into a big factory, their faces passive masks.

(147) TAILS (O.S.)
(sotto)
Who're those guys?

BACK TO SHOT

Sonic staring intently at the line of citizens. *

(148) SONIC
They used to be people, then Robotnik fed 'em through his Ro-Bo machine and now they're robots workin' in his crud factories. *

(149) TAILS
Is Uncle Chuck there?

(150) SONIC
 (shakes his head)
 Don't see him.

(151) TAILS
 Can I see Uncle Chuck's picture
 again?

Sonic takes photo from his "pocket," shows it to Tails.

INSERT - PHOTO

It shows UNCLE CHUCK (also a hedgehog) holding Sonic on his shoulders. Both wear big smiles. Beside them is a big, galumping DOG that's a cross between a St. Bernard and a Great Dane. He has huge eyes, enormous feet and a tongue the size of a doormat. This is MUTTSKI.

(152) TAILS (O.S.)
 You miss Uncle Chuck?

BACK TO SHOT

Sonic stares sadly at photo.

(153) SONIC
 (nods)
 A ton.
 (beat)
 Muttski, too.

A CLANKING NOISE turns them to see...

A ROBOT GUARD DOG

making his junk yard rounds. It's a robotocized version of MUTTSKI. His red eyes glow eerily in the dark. He stops and GROWLS as...

SONIC

stares at the dog. We can just see Tails' wide eyes above top of the backpack.

(154) TAILS
 (sotto)
 Who's that doggie?

(155) SONIC
 (sotto; amazed)
 That's,...that's Muttski!

(156) TAILS
 (sotto)
 He looks too mean.

(157)

SONIC

'Cause he's a robot.

(beat)

But he won't hurt me. I'm his best
bud. His main hedgehog.

(whistles; calls)

Muttski! Over here, boy!

MUTTSKI'S HEAD

snaps around, his infra-red eyes pulsating. Steam shoots from his flaring nostrils as he utters a low, ELECTRONIC GROWL, showing a mouth full of steel teeth that glint in the half-light.

MUTTSKI'S POV

Infra-red a la "Terminator". ZOOM-IN on Sonic.

(158)

SONIC (CONT'D.)

(distorted)

It's me, Sonic.

MUTTSKI

GROWLS, then charges CAMERA, his big metal jaws SNAPPING with the RINGING SOUND of a SLAMMING jail cell door.

SONIC

REACTS as Tails SQUEALS and swan-dives deep into the backpack. Sonic seems frozen for an instant, as if refusing to believe his old dog would harm him and...

MUTTSKI

keeps coming. Steam blowing from his nostrils. Almost to CAMERA now and...

SONIC

takes off, rocketing toward the nearest junk mountain, where he zooms up atop dented car roof, but not before the hustling Muttski takes a bite out of the Hedgehog's bun-fur.

Sonic stands atop dented car roof and rubs the bare patch on his butt as Muttski GROWLS and SNAPS from the ground, twenty feet below.

(159)

SONIC

Muttski, Muttski, Muttski, this is the thanks I get after putting you through four years of obedience school?

(he points)

Bad dog! You sit, you stay, you don't bite! Understand?

Muttski blinks, then obediently sits and stays, nodding that he understands. Strangely, the red glow in his eyes fades away. His metal tail wags happily, CLANKING loudly against the ground. He makes little WHIMPERING SOUNDS.

Sonic and Tails look down at the dog. Sonic smiles confidently.

(160)

SONIC

See, Tails? You just gotta take control -- let the dog know who's in charge.

He hops off the car roof and lands right in front of...

MUTTSKI

who licks Sonic's face with his steel tongue. Sonic pats his head.

(161)

SONIC

Nice tongue, Muttski, but the color's wrong for you. Gotta go with basic pink.

(beat)

Haven't seen Uncle Chuck hangin' out, have you?

Muttski shakes his head and WHIMPERS. Sonic rubs him behind the ears, causing his metal tail to THUMP.

(162)

SONIC

Someday we'll find him.

Sonic kneels down so he's eye to eye with Muttski.

(163)

SONIC

Know what I'm gonna do, Muttski?

(Muttski shakes his head)

Change you back to a real dog. You know, chewin' up the furniture, chasin' cars, drinkin' from the toilet, all the cool dog stuff.

Tails pops up, just his wide eyes visible over backpack rim.

(164) TAILS
How ya gonna do that?

(165) SONIC
By reversin' him through Robotnik's
Ro-Bo-Machine.

*

Muttski tilts his head and stares at Sonic. That name... Robotnik... registers deep in his robot brain. We hear motors WHIRRING, gears CLICKING. The red glow fades back into his eyes and they start to pulsate as he glares at Sonic.

(166) SONIC
Wait, Muttski! What're you doin'?
You're starting to weird out again.

Tails SQUEAKS and dives back into the backpack as a low GROWL RUMBLES up out of Muttski's throat. Suddenly his jaws fly open and he tries to bite Sonic, but the Hedgehog is too quick and Muttski misses, his jaws CLANGING shut on thin air.

SONIC

zips back atop dented car roof. As he goes:

(167) SONIC
Bad dog, Muttski! Mondo bad dog!
You're supposed to be hedgehog's best
friend!

Muttski takes big bite out of a car fender, chews the metal into a spitball and PTOOEY'S it at...

SONIC

who ducks the bullet-like spitball, which ricochets off another car and WHINES into the night. More spitball bullets come in a flurry and Sonic dodges and ducks them.

(168) SONIC
Okay, okay, that's it, Muttski. I
can take a hint.
(beat)
But hang-in, 'cause someday we'll be
together again.
(then a la Arnold)
I'll be back.

Sonic rears up and blasts down the car mountain at incredible speed, ZOOMS past Muttski so fast that he sends the robot dog into a wild spin.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

Deserted. Dark. HEAR that JET-WHINE approach, then Sonic bullets around a corner leaning over on one foot with a swarm of patrol cars right on his tail. He zips through a closed door as cars SKID up behind him. PAN UP this towering building, then...

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP STAIR ENTRANCE - NIGHT

HOLD ON big, heavy STEEL DOOR. From other side we hear Sonic's high-speed approach. Then a LOUD THUD as door shakes, then bursts open as Sonic comes blasting out. He jams to a stop as five...

HULKING SWAT-BOTS

lumber toward him from across the roof.

(169) TAILS (O.S.)
Uh-oh! More Swat-Guys!

SONIC

taps his foot impatiently, looks at his watch, then back up.

(170) SONIC
C'mon Bot-Brains. Move it!

As the SWAT-BOTS charge closer, Sonic feigns sleep, SNORING loudly. Tails swan-dives down into the backpack.

(171) SONIC
Hold onto your lunch, Tails!

Sonic launches into his SSS (Super-Sonic-Spin), his body quickly becoming a whirling blur as he spins through the charging SWAT-BOTS like a mini-tornado, sending them flying off the roof in all directions. Sonic SKIDS to a stop and looks over his shoulder. No sign of Tails.

(172) SONIC
Tails? You okay?

Tails' head slowly rises into view, his complexion a sickly greenish color. Looks like he's gonna chunk his Cheerios.

(173) TAILS
(weak)
Forget the chili dogs.

RUNNING FOOTSTEPS are heard and Sonic takes off again, as Tails' GROANS.

A BEAT after Sonic blows OUT OF SHOT, roof door SLAMS open and a bunch of SWAT-BOTS storm out, but don't see...

SONIC

dive head-first into rooftop air vent a BEAT before the SWAT-BOTS run through.

INT. AIR VENT - SAME

All we can see are Sonic's eyes looking around. Second pair of eyes appear. Sick-looking eyes.

(174) TAILS
Where are we?

(175) SONIC
An air vent, but hey, no prob,... I have eyes like a hawk.

They start to move, when their eyes suddenly pop wide with fear and they plummet out of sight, YELLING as they go.

INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE ON Robotnik. Smiling that cruel smile. WIDEN to see he's standing with Cluck (on his wrist), Snively and Buzz-Bomber, who is strapped into small rocket-launcher (only he's the rocket), angled toward wide opening in the roof. Three large air tanks are mounted on his back.

Audience of SWAT-BOTS watch in stony silence, red eyes glowing.

(176) ROBOTNIK
Tonight I shall reveal...

PAN UP to air vent as it starts to RATTLE and...

INT. AIR VENT - SAME

As Sonic slides out of control INTO CAMERA.

SONIC'S POV - MOVING

at full tilt toward screened-over opening at end of the vent. We can see back of Robotnik's bald head through the screen.

(177) ROBOTNIK (CONT)
...my most brilliant plan to date,
that will positively eliminate the
fetid little Hedgehog as well as
all...

INT. WAR ROOM - SAME

Robotnik turns to Snively.

(183) ROBOTNIK
Start the countdown.

Snively punches button on his remote and a big digital clock on the launch pad starts to count down from ten as...

INT. AIR VENT - TAILS

builds to a sneeze. He tries to contain it, but...

(184) TAILS
ACHO-O-OOOO!!!

He flies backwards as before, but still in the backpack, it stretches like a rubber band, then rebounds, SLAMMING hard into Sonic and knocking him forward right through the screen (which flies off) and sails out into...

INT. WAR ROOM

...where he lands on his can and bounces to a stop right in front of Robotnik, who smiles down at him.

(185) ROBOTNIK
Well, nice of you to drop in,
Hedgehog.

Sonic and Tails look up at Robotnik and the surrounding SWAT-BOTS with wide eyes, then...

(186) SONIC
Did we miss dinner?

FADE OUT.

END ACT II

ACT IIIFADE IN

INT. WAR ROOM - NIGHT

Sonic surrounded by Robotnik and room full of SWAT-BOTS who suddenly grab him.

(187) SONIC
Does this mean dinner's off?

Robotnik leans in close to Sonic.

(188) ROBOTNIK
It means, Hedgehog, that your days as a Freedom Fighter are over.

Sonic looks around, then:

(189) SONIC
Are you talkin' to me?

(190) ROBOTNIK
Of course.

(191) SONIC
(shakes his head)
I don't think so. There's still too much work to do.

(beat)
Listen, I'd like to stay and really get to know you, Robotnik, but it's...juice time!

SONIC

leaps up, his body stretching like a rubberband and breaks free of the SWAT-BOT'S grip, then, with his legs a wind-milling blur atop Robotnik's head, he ROARS across the ceiling.

(192) ROBOTNIK
Get him! Get him!

Sonic suddenly re-appears on far side of the room, ZOOMING straight up the wall, across the ceiling, half-way down the other wall and into the air vent where he disappears.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOF OF ROBOTNIK'S HQ - NIGHT

Deserted and quiet except for Robotnik's VOICE ECHOING up through numerous air vents.

(193) ROBOTNIK (O.S.)
(YELLS)
Get him! Get the Hedgehog!

We hear the familiar JET-WHINE approach, then Sonic bursts out of vent NEAR CAMERA and BLASTS O.S., pursued by SWAT-BOTS.

SONIC'S POV - MOVING FAST

As he approaches edge of roof and the yawning chasm between them and adjoining roof, which has a giant doughnut on top, a relic from the Old City.

SONIC

zooms across the chasm in mid-air, hits the far roof with a CHIRP of rubber, then broodies to a stop NEAR CAMERA and (with Tails) looks O.S.

SONIC'S POV

to reveal thirty SWAT-BOTS blocking his path, weapons drawn, the only sign of life are the glowing eyes. Sonic looks behind him as TWO SWAT-BOT helicopters rise up from the chasm between the buildings.

INT. HELICOPTER

Robotnik and Cluck beside the SWAT-BOT pilot watching with nasty grins.

(194) ROBOTNIK
Let's see you worm out of this one,
Hedgehog!

EXT. ROOFTOP - SONIC

looks over his shoulder and holds up one hand, palm up.

(195) SONIC
Tails, time to bust the Power Ring.

Tails digs Power Ring out of backpack and slaps it into Sonic's hand. PING! Ring starts to glow that golden color. So does Sonic. His body vibrates. Tails has to close his eyes as the glow grows brighter.

INT. HELICOPTER

Robotnik's eyes narrow with acute interest.

(196) ROBOTNIK
A Power Ring!

He grabs binoculars, peers at Sonic. So does Cluck.

POV OF SONIC

He's really vibrating and grips Power Ring with both hands as...

EXT. ROOFTOP - THE SWAT-BOTS

move in. So do the choppers. WHUP-WHUP-WHUP.

THE GLOW

from Sonic is almost blinding. Tails has his hands over his eyes.

197

SONIC

(stutters as he vibrates)

Hold on, Tails,... we're gonna do the Triple-S!

Sonic takes off with a neck-snapping blaze of speed we haven't seen before as he races in circles around the SWAT-BOTS, then slowly fades out and disappears altogether. We can't see him, but we can HEAR him and see the affects of his breathtaking speed as the...

SWAT-BOTS

bend in the wind like palm trees in a hurricane. Several fly off the roof. Suddenly the sound and wind are gone.

INT. HELICOPTER

An angry Robotnik stares in frustration, his evil eyes narrowing.

198

ROBOTNIK

(almost a whisper)

You were fortunate this time,
Hedgehog, but the night is young.

WIPE TO:

EXT. GREAT DESERT - NIGHT

OPEN ON SHOT of gorgeous full moon and clear, star-filled sky. Quiet broken by HIGH-PITCHED TURBINE WHINE. TILT DOWN to see rooster tail of dust boiling towards us along dirt road at unbelievable speed. Cacti bend in its wake.

CLOSER ON DUST CLOUD

Sonic slowly starts to FADE-ON as Tails (now wearing goggles) peers out from backpack. Their faces are pushed back and distorted by G-force. B.G. whips past in a frantic blur. Tails grins.

(199) TAILS
(yells joyously)
Is this way past cool or what?

(200) SONIC
Way past!

And as they bullet into the distance, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE VILLAGE - NIGHT

Cottages all dark. Quiet. Only night sounds of the Forest.
MOVE IN TO one of the cottages.

INT. COTTAGE - NIGHT

Dark except for moonlight streaming in. Bunnie lies in her bed (her back to CAMERA) trying to sleep, while Sally sits by the window staring up at the moon glimpsed through the trees. Sally looks down at her glowing watch as it BEEPS the hour.

(201) SALLY
(worried SIGH)
Bunnie, I'm really worried about
Tails and Sonic. They've been gone
for hours...

(202) BUNNIE
(half asleep)
I'm sure they're fine, Sally,...

A BEAT, then...

(203) SALLY
Do you think Sonic does all those
childish things just to make me mad?

Bunnie sits up on her elbows. She wears a glowing night cream giving her a monster-like face and her ears are up in big rollers.

(204) BUNNIE
Honey-pie, I think that's just Sonic.
It's what makes him special.
(beat)
'Course it's also 'cause he's a boy,
and boys are weirder than a three-
headed chicken.

(205) SALLY
(nods and SIGHS)
But why are boys so hard to figure
out?

(206)

BUNNIE

(shrugs)

Ya got me... but aren't they just the cutest little ol' things?

Bunnie GIGGLES, and Sal shakes her head, resigned that this is how Bunnie is. Then the cottage shakes slightly. Dishware RATTLES on the shelves, followed by a SONIC-BOOM. Sally looks toward the window with a big smile. *

(207)

SALLY

Sonic!

WIPE TO:

EXT. POWER RING POND - NIGHT

CLOSE ON Sonic, his face lit by flickering firelight.

(208)

SONIC

And Buzz-Bomber is headed here right now with some chemical Robotnik invented that's gonna kill all the trees and expose Knothole!

During the above, CAMERA PULLS BACK to see Sonic standing atop a rock, speaking to group of torch-bearing VILLAGERS that include Tails, Boomer, Sally, Antoine and Bunnie.

209 SONIC (CONT'D) *See a group of six catagories positioned within area. Following arms raised with him.*
Somehow we've gotta stop him!

Everyone turns to Sally, expecting a solution, but someone else speaks up first.

(210)

ANTOINE

I've got it. Why don't we...

Everyone turns to glare at Antoine. He smiles sheepishly.

(211)

ANTOINE

Nevermind.

All eyes go back to Sally, who is thinking. Dead quiet for a moment, then:

(212)

SALLY

I have a plan.

WIPE TO:

EXT. GREAT DESERT - MORNING

Buzz-Bomber wings into view from OUT OF CAMERA, approaching a towering treeline in the distance.

(213) SNIVELY (O.S.)
(radio-filtered)
Great Forest dead ahead, Bomber-
One,... distance twelve miles.
Activate chemical tanks.

BUZZ-BOMBER

pushes button on his wrist control panel and the red light atop his chemical tanks flash, accompanied by BEEPING SOUND.

(214) SNIVELY (O.S.)
E.T.A. Great Forest,... six minutes.

CUT TO:

EXT. TREE LINE - GREAT FOREST - MORNING

CLOSE ON BOOMER as he slides a metal cotter pin into a slot on one of the catapults.

(215) BOOMER
Okay, that's all of 'em!

WIDEN OUT to see a line of six catapults positioned within the tree line, all manned and ready, throwing arms loaded with water balloons. Antoine mans one catapult; Bunnie another, Sally another, then Boomer and Sonic (now minus his backpack).

SONIC

looks up a towering tree.

(216) SONIC
(calls)
Tails, see anything?

POV UP TREE

Clear at the top we see Tails peering out across the Great Forest through binoculars.

(217) TAILS
Sure. Millions of things. Rocks,
mountains, trees...

Sonic rolls his eyes as Sally ENTERS SHOT.

(218) SALLY
Sonic, I'm still worried about the catapults. The new cotter pins really help and Boomer reinforced the throwing arms, but their range is still limited.

(beat)
What if Buzz doesn't fly close enough?

(219) SONIC
(nods)
That could be a problemo.
(beat as he thinks)
Whoa...the old light bulb just went on in my head! Buzz-Bomber hates my guts, right?

(220) SALLY
Yes. So?

(221) SONIC
Whaddaya mean so?

(222) SALLY
So? As in so what?

(223) SONIC
So...he'll follow me anywhere, including inside our catapult range.
(he mimics roar of crowd, then bows)
Thank you, thank you. I am humbled.

(224) SALLY
I hate to admit it, but you're right.

CUT TO:

EXT. TREELINE - MORNING

Buzz schlepping along. Slow but steady. Lights blink on his chemical tanks. Just about to treeline now.

(225) SNIVELY (O.S.)
Activate defoliants in ten seconds,
Bomber-One.
(beat)
Ten, nine...

Suddenly Sonic shoots straight up INTO SHOT from out of nowhere, right in front of Buzz, holding a water balloon in each hand. Buzz SLAMS on the mid-air brakes.

(226) SONIC
 You look a little hot, Buzz-Brain...
 better cool down!

SPLAT! SPLAT! Both balloons score direct hits. Sonic drops OUT OF SHOT as Buzz (in hovering mode) SPARKS and FIZZES.

(227) ROBOTNIK (O.S.)
 The Hedgehog! Get him! Get him!

Buzz recovers, pushes a button and a big laser cannon telescopes out of his forehead and zeroes in on...

POV - SONIC

who taunts him from the ground.

(228) SONIC
 Here I am, Slug-Head! Gimme your
 best shot!

He leaps up as laser beam hits the ground beneath his feet.

(229) SONIC
 I'd like to hang, but gotta juice!

Sonic's legs churn in a blur; he does a mid-air flip and rockets O.S. in cloud of dust.

Buzz dives toward Sonic.

(230) ROBOTNIK (O.S.)
 Use the Hedgehog missile!

The red light on the missile launcher atop Buzz' head blinks on. WHOOSH! Missile launched and instantly makes a b-line for...

SONIC

ripping toward waiting catapults. He looks over his shoulder to see...

THE HEDGEHOG MISSILE - MOVING POV

bearing down on him. IT ROARS INTO CAMERA.

SONIC

SKIDS to a stop. Turns to face oncoming missile. Taps his foot impatiently, looks at his watch as missile closes.

(231) SONIC
 C'mon missile-head! I'm gettin'
 bored!

Sonic fakes a big YAWN.

Sonic easily sidesteps the missile with a lightning quick, but seemingly casual move, then with equal speed, hops aboard as it ROARS past.

WITH THE MISSILE

As it hauls-ass, Sonic now atop it. He WHISTLES SHARPLY and the missile SKIDS to mid-air stop. The nose looks around at Sonic, who waves.

(232) SONIC
Lookin' for me?

As Buzz approaches from behind, Sonic suddenly springs up off the missile into a back flip and lands on...

BUZZ'

metal butt. Sonic waves and WHISTLES at the missile.

(233) SONIC
Yo! Back here, needle-nose!

THE MISSILE

does a "take," throws a hard U-turn and blasts toward Sonic, which really freaks out...

BUZZ

(234) ROBOTNIK (O.S.)

who's eyes widen in panic as...

SONIC

taps his foot, looks at his watch impatiently.

(234) SONIC
Quit doggin' it, missile-head!

Missile closes on Sonic, who ricochets away at last second, then... BOOM! Missile EXPLODES, blowing off some of Buzz' tail feathers. Now...

BUZZ

is really pissed and dives after Sonic with renewed determination.

(235) ROBOTNIK (O.S.)
Get that Hedgehog, Bomber-One, or I
will turn you into a can opener!

CUT TO:

EXT. TREELINE - DAY - BINOCULAR POV

of Sonic racing toward us with Buzz in pursuit.

(236) SALLY (O.S.)
Get ready! Here comes Sonic!

SALLY

raises her hand, still looking through binoculars.

(237) SALLY (CONT)
And Buzz Bomber's right behind him!

Sonic blasts INTO SHOT and SKIDS to a stop just beyond Sally's catapult.

(238) SALLY
Fire!

TWANG! TWANG! TWANG! The catapults unload. Water balloons fly.

BUZZ

is nailed with six direct hits and immediately starts to SHORT-CIRCUIT in a big way. Turning tail (what's left of it), he heads home, trailing smoke and July 4th pyrotechnics.

(239) ROBOTNIK (O.S.)
What are you doing, Bomber-One? Get back there! Get that Hedgehog! Do you read me? I want the Hedgehog!

CUT TO:

INT. ROBOTNIK'S WAR ROOM

Robotnik wheels on Snively, his eyes evil slits.

(240) ROBOTNIK
Come here.

Snively obeys, cringing in anticipation as Robotnik, totally upset, takes it out on him.

CUT TO:

EXT. TREELINE - DAY

Freedom Fighters all CHEER, then Sonic turns to Sally and holds out his hand for her to shake. She gives him 'five' instead and...

(241) SALLY
You were really great today.

(242) SONIC
Thanks.

They turn and walk AWAY FROM CAMERA. As they move into the distance...

(243) SONIC (CONT'D)
What about yesterday?

(244) SALLY
What about it?

(245) SONIC
Wasn't I great yesterday, too?

(246) SALLY
(waffles her hand)
So-so.

(247) SONIC
So-So?

(248) SALLY
Is there an echo?

(249) SONIC
What about the day before yesterday?

(250) SALLY
What about it?

(251) SONIC
Was I great or so-so?

(252) SALLY
I don't remember the day before yesterday.

(253) SONIC
Well, I do and I was great.

(254) SALLY
Uh-uh.

(255) SONIC
Whaddaya mean "uh-uh"? I thought you didn't remember the day before yesterday.

(256) SALLY
I remember that part.

(257) SONIC
Yeah, well you were so-so yourself.

(258) SALLY
I was so-so?

(259) SONIC
Is there an echo?

FADE OUT:

THE END
